Amendments in Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977

3580. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication containing proposed amendments to Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government have taken or proposed to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government has introduced the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha to enhance the cess rates specified under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977. The said Bill has been referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests for review. The Committee has sought certain information, which has been duly furnished.

Unauthorised Cultivation by Tribal People

3581. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that many Tribes/Backward Classes and poor people had been cultivating unauthorised on the forest and peripheral land for their livelihood in Karnataka since long;

(b) whether it is also a fact due to ignorance and uneducation they could not avail of the opportunity given up to 1980 for regularisation of snow lands; and

(c) whether the Karnataka Government had written thrice in 1997 and recently to the Centre seeking approval for regularisation of cultivated land if so, what action Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) As per the various Rules and Guidelines to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 only such cases of forest encroachments are eligible for regularisation, where the State Governments had already taken a decision prior to the enactment of the Act to regularise the encroachments, based on certain eligibility criteria fixed at that point of time, but could not implement